

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Eric Newland, Area Management Biologist
Breena Apgar-Kurtz, Asst. Area Manager
Phone: (907) 949-1320
Fax: (907) 949-1830

Lower Yukon Area Office
P.O. Box 127
Emmonak, AK 99581
Date Issued: 11:15 A.M., 6/20/2013

2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 15

Summer Announcement #13, District 1 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net Period #3

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Under new commercial fishing regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2013, the department may by emergency order allow the use of dip nets and beach seines. These new gear options are intended to allow for additional summer chum directed commercial fishing opportunity while allowing for the release of incidentally caught Chinook salmon.

Dip nets and beach seines may be employed to allow for the commercial harvest of summer chum salmon even during times when subsistence fishing closures have been enacted to protect Chinook salmon.

The preliminary beach seine and dip net cumulative commercial harvest through June 19 in District 1 is approximately 4,400 summer chum salmon and a total of 45 Chinook salmon have been recorded as caught and released.

Based on the 2013 preseason outlook for summer chum salmon, this announcement opens one commercial salmon fishing period in District 1.

District 1 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net: Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open 12:00 noon Thursday, June 20, until 12:00 midnight Thursday, June 20, with beach seine and dip net gear only. This will be a 12-hour commercial fishing period. Beach seine mesh size is restricted to 4-inch or smaller. Dip net mesh size is restricted 4.5-inch or smaller. A commercial permit holder may operate up to four dip nets.

Fishermen employing dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release incidentally caught Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

Commercial fishermen should confirm their market prior to commercial fishing.

Subsistence fishing in District 1 will be open concurrently with the commercial fishing period from 12:00 noon Thursday, June 20, until 12:00 midnight Thursday, June 20. Subsistence fishermen may use beach seine and dip net gear only, however fishermen are required to release Chinook salmon alive.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

-end-